

My dear *Confrere*, — Please let me have  
six boxes of photographic plates similar to the others. Can  
you lend me "Les  
Chouans," "Cesar Birotteau," «La  
Recherche de TAbsolu," "Les  
Illusions perdues," by Ealzac. If not,  
please buy them — the  
edition at 1 fr. 25 c.

In addition to books, Zola was of course kept  
well supplied with newspapers, both French and  
English. Vizetelly  
procured him an English grammar for French  
students and  
other works, and with this help he picked up  
sufficient  
knowledge of the English language to  
understand the news  
telegraphed from Paris about the Dreyfus case.  
In all such  
news he naturally took the keenest interest.  
On August 31  
Vizetelly received from Paris a telegram to be  
transmitted  
to him, — a telegram to this effect: "Be  
prepared for a great  
success." It greatly puzzled Zola when it  
reached him, for  
there was nothing in the newspapers he had  
seen to which  
it could refer. However, a score of possibilities  
in connection with the Dreyfus case immediately  
occurred to him,  
and he spoke of them in presence of  
Vizetelly's daughter,  
passing from one surmise to another and  
becoming  
quite feverish as his impatience to know the  
meaning of  
the mysterious "wire" increased. His young  
companion  
was undoubtedly upset by his strange  
excitement, which  
gained on her also, in such wise that she  
passed a very  
restless night, beset repeatedly by a dream in

which she  
fancied herself in some strange, big, dark  
place where a

binatlon of Hots and scratches. Sometimes he signed "Em.  
Beauchainp," at  
others "J. Beauchainp," and "B." Later, he ventured on  
a "Z." Yery  
few of Ms notes of that time hear Ms name in full.  
Moreover, for fear of  
the Cabinet Koir (the *petit lieu* affair showed that one  
existed), his letters  
to Paris were usually addressed by Vizetelly to a person  
who transmitted  
them to those for whom they were intended.